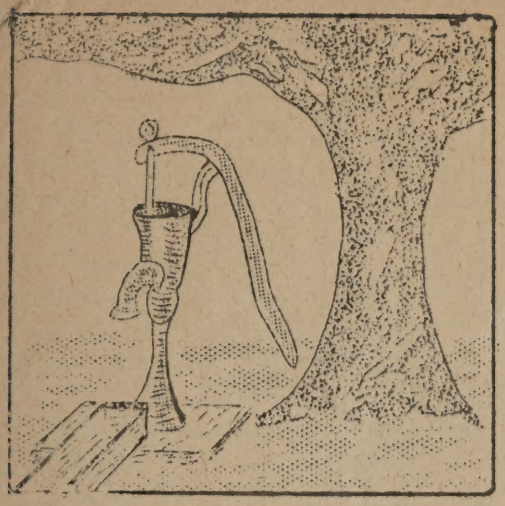

THE ASHBY TOWN PUMP

VOL 1 OCTOBER, 1944 NO. 5

THE HURRICANE

The biggest home news this month was another one of those hurricanes such as we all rocked and rolled under back in 1938. This one, like the other, made up down in the Caribebean somewhere, kissed the coast of North Carolina, bounced off, rolled up the Atlantic Seacoast, sideswiping Atlantic City, New York, the Connecticut coast, then rolled over Martha's Vineyard and smashed across the Cape toward Boston. While everybody braced for it with every hatch battened down, it did a by-the right flank at South Weymouth and roated out to sea.

Thus Boston and this area were saved, Cape Cod was terribly smashed. Estimates of property damage were early placed at between 50 and 60 million dollars. It may go to 100. Beach places and installations were washed or blown away. Famous beach clubs and golf houses familiar to thousands are no more.

The heavy rain, driven by the gale of wind, found its way into the ceilings and walls of many of the best-conditioned homes, but on the whole, the damage in Ashby was slight except, of course, to the farmers.

If you boys think you move fast at an air raid alarm, you should have seen the apple pickers move when the hurricane signals were raised.

We know of one orchard where the pickers worked all day, and early night through the wind and rain to pick about 1400 bushels.

Severe loss, nevertheless was experienced by all apple growers, ruining the chances for a real crop.

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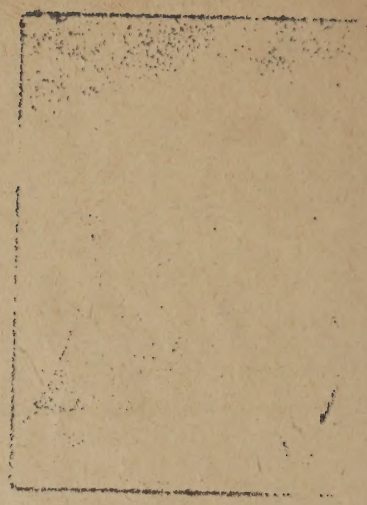
The Servicemens Committee put the squeeze on the towns-folk recently when we sponsored a dance at the First Parish Hall to raise money for our servicemen's Xmas packages and for your home-coming party. One of the largest crowds for years attended the event and a gay old time was had by all. The music was furnished by Lampi's orchestra from New Ipswich. The services of Mr. Howard Damon, our police chief, were donated to a worthy cause. A delightful coffee social by our generous Finnish women more than helped to increase the amount of money. Several cakes and Finnish coffee breads were auctioned. One of Ashby's friends generously contributed a war bond to our cause on which we sold chances and raised over $ 30.00. Walter Piper was chairman of the committee which included Mrs. Linnie Varney, Mrs. Waino Soino, Mrs. Otto Louhi, Mrs. Howard Wilkinson, Mrs. William Evans, Arthur L. Wass, Edwin J. Lyman and Fred Foresman.



ASHBY GRANGE NEWS

Ashby Grange observes Booster Night Friday eve, Sept.29, with an entertainment and refreshments, open to the public.

The class taking the degrees numbers twelve. Ashby Grange is planning a basketball this year. This should prove interesting as we have such a large number of young folks in the Grange, all looking for excitement.

Neighbors night will be observed at the second October meeting, which should bring out a good crowd with three outside granges invited. Ashby Grange has the reputation of being the Friendliest Grange.

The Hallowe'en dance is scheduled to be held October 27. Everyone looks forward to a good time.

At a meeting of the Congregational Church members recently, a committee was appointed to take steps to engage a pastor for the church. Plans were also made to raise money to pay for recent repairs to the church. Walter E. Woodruff was moderator of the meeting.

The first fall meeting of the Alliance was held recently at the home of the president, Mrs. Caroline Wilkinson with Mrs. Clara Durkee and Mrs. Caroline Brooks as co-hostesses. The fall and winter program was completed and questions from the question box were discussed.

We are pleased to hear that Edwin Lord has returned from the Chelsea Naval Hospital where he has been receiving treatment for several weeks.

Miss Mary Damon, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Howard Damon, is attending Becker College of Business at Worcester, and Miss Bertha Johnson, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Werner Johnson, is attending Fitchburg Teachers College. Both young ladies graduated last June from Ashby High School.

Miss Ruth Cheney, daughter of Mr.& Mrs. Louis Cheney, is attending Stevens Business College.

Why the Ashby Siren Blows at Noon

"Major", a dog owned by Mr. Frank Lyman, thinks the siren is sounded for his special benefit. When it blows, "Major" runs for home and up the steps to the back door where he stands and waits patiently for chow.

All servicemen and women from Ashby should be receiving one year's subscription to the Readers Digest after they are sent overseas. This is a gift of the Ashby Branch Alliance connected with the Unitarian Church. Should your copies fail to reach you, it may be because of a change in your address. In this event send a card to :

The Readers Digest
Pleasantville,
New York.

giving your old address as well as your new one.

"SKUNK AGAIN"

Despite hurricane warnings that other night there seemed to be two persons unconcerned about the foreboding weather. Around 7 P.M., Jimmy Skunk was on his nightly prowl to John Lawrence's garden, but at the same time Linnie Varney was on the prowl with his shotgun tucked under his arm. A lively tussle and the usual fireworks soon transformed "Jimmy" into a pelt.

FOLIAGE

Just in the line of making some of you real homesick we mention the foliage this fall. Two early and sharp frosts have brought out the most beautiful display in many years. Brilliant reds and oranges are sprinkled among the evergreens, and in the early morning sun with a fresh white frost on the ground the sight is such as is often longed for and never forgotten.

CPL.LUTHER H. HAYES

Word was received recently by Mr.& Mrs. Luther H. Hayes that their son,Cpl. Luther H. Hayes , U.S.M.C.R. was wounded in the fighting on Peliliu Island on Sept.20 and is now in a hospital recovering from shrapnel wounds in his right leg. He was also rendered unconscious by the explosion of a mortar shell.He wrote that all except one of his squad were killed or wounded and that one of his closest buddies was killed.

This is the second time that the young Marine has been wounded during his 28 months' stay in the southwest Pacific war area as a member of the First Marine Division. A veteran of the first landing on Guadalcanal on August 7, 1942, he was wounded at Cape Gloucester on Dec. 26, 1943. He made a good recovery from his wounds and was stationed at a rest camp on the Russell Islands until the Palau invasion on Sept. 15,1944.

As a result of bravery displayed during the Cape Gloucester fighting, he received a special citation and was promoted to corporal. Cpl . Hayes enlisted in the Marine Corps on Jan.10, 1942. Previous to entering the service,he was employed in the office of Simonds Saw and Steel Company in Fitchburg.

S/Sgt. Allan V. Kangas,A.A.F. who is now a prisoner of war of the German Government has been awarded the Air Medal with one oak leaf cluster by order of the President. His parents,Mr.& Mrs. Antti Kangas of 33 Omena St.,Fitchburg,formerly of Ashby, have received the award. Sgt. Kangas received this honor for exceptionally meritous achievement while participating in the separate combat missions over onemy occupied Continental Europe. The citation accompanying the award further stated," The courage, coolness and skill displayed by this enlisted man upon these occasions reflect great credit upon himself and the armed forces of the U.S.

Jack Woodruff, Aviation Cadet, is now stationed at Selma Field, Alabama.

"Rod" Brooks has arrived in France, and although he suffered from "mal de mer" says that he wouldn't have missed the trip over for anything in the world.

The Varney home was the site for a double celebration dinner on Sept.24. Bob Varney was home to celebrate his 17th birthday, and Ralph was about to depart for Warner Robbins Field in Georgia.

Of interest to some Ashby boys, is that Esko Ojanen,of Ashburnham, has been promoted to sergeant. He has been overseas for 30 months with a medical unit in Guadalcanal and Bougainville, and has received the Purple Heart for wounds received in action.

Mrs. Harold Jackson(Barbara Bennett) of Fitchburg, has received word that her husband is now with the 3rd Army in France. He had been stationed in Ireland from November 1943 to July."Jack" writes that he had the pounds, shillings and pence learned fairly well in Ireland, but he isn't quite so sure of the French language. He says the weather there now is like our Fall, cool mornings and evenings, but the days are warmer.

Robert Leighton,S 1/C has been spending a short leave with his parents,Mr.& Mrs. Harry Leighton.

Pvt. Everett Rackliffe,stationed at Camp Ellis,Ill. is spending a furlough with his parents,Mr. & Mrs. Leidy Rackliffe.

S/Sgt.Oscar Fors is near a big servicemen's club in Italy and hopes to visit it soon.

Sgt. Leo Honkala and his wife have been in Ashby during a recent furlough from Casper,Wyoming.

Martha Mossman is back in the U. S. after months of Red Cross service in Italy. At present she is visiting her family in Newton but hopes to get to Ashby for a visit. Martha tells of crossing the Atlantic by plane in 22 hours while it took her 10 hours by train from Washington, D.C. to Boston, Mass.

Andrew Hansen has been home on an 18 day furlough before leaving for active sea duty.

S/Sgt. Oscar Fors, A.A.F. is now serving as an aviation mechanic with a B-24 Liberator heavy bombardment group in Italy. Sgt. Fors , who is serving with the 15th Air Force, is with a group that has flown over 300 combat missions.

Richard Wilkinson is home on leave after many months overseas duty aboard the hospital ship"Shamrock." Rich told us how much he has appreciated the Town Pump. Also he said if any of the boys ever see the Shamrock, please look around for Rich. The Wilkinson's had a family reunion last Sunday with everyone together for the first time in two years.

Mrs. George Holmes, South Village has received word from the war department that her son, P.F.C. Ernest Holmes, who was wounded in France on July 4, is rapidly recovering in a hospital in England. Her son, P.F.C. Robert Holmes is in France, and another son P.F.C. Roy Holmes is in England. A fourth son P.F.C. Allan Holmes, now at Camp Lee, Virginia expects to leave shortly for foreign service. Also, a son-in-law, Cpl. Albert Johnson is also in France.

Roland Pillsbury S1/c, writes home that he was in the invasion of Southern France, Said it was a grand sight, but he had rather read about it in the newspapers.

Mrs. Toini Curran, wife of James D. Curran has recently received the Purple Heart medal posthumously awarded to him. Mrs. Curran also received a letter from 1st Lt. Paul A. Diehl and a letter from her husband's platoon leader, Lt. L. W. Cotugno of the 2nd Bn., 6th Marines, giving full details of her husband's death.

The following was taken from Lt. Cotugno's letter:

"Your husband was a member of the assault troops and upon our arrival on the beach we met a mortar and artillary barrage. He was killed during the barrage. We were shocked to learn of his death as he was well liked by all of us. He was a good Marine and his loss hurt us deeply."

A/C Ralph Curran, who is stationed at Santa Ana, California, has been in the hospital for the last six weeks recovering from an operation.

William E. Hemlin S/ 2/c writes how the Town Pump has been a great help to him in answering a lot of his questions as to the whereabouts of the Ashby people in the service. He has greatly enjoyed the paper and feels that, like himself, service people look forward to news from home. Bill is now stationed at Great Lakes, Ill. and is taking a sixteen week torpedoman's course.

Mrs. Hannah Aho has recently received a letter from her son Rudolph which was written on heavy dark brown paper. "Rudy" says it was paper which has been captured from the Germans. Rudy also spoke of France as being very beautiful, at least out in the country where he has been stationed. The farms look very much like the farms in the U.S. He spoke of the many beautiful horses there and that he has seen a lot of stock running wild. Rudy says his three false teeth are resting comfortably in his tool box. Cp. Salo is driving a supply truck somewhere in France.

Lt. Marjorie F. Bennett A.N.C.

Many of our readers will be interested to hear what has happened to "Margie", daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank D. Bennett of Main Street,

"Margie" was called into the service onJanuary 5, 1942. She received a month's basic training at Camp Edwards, where she was put into the 7th Evacuation Unit. In February, she was sent to Fort Dix, N.J. where she remained until the latter part of March, when she left for the South Pacific. In about six weeks she landed on the Tonga Islands. The life there was quite primitive, and she took care of the wounded from the battle of Guadalcanal and many others. She s tayed there until February 1943 when she moved up to the Fiji Islands. She is now working there on detached service with the 71st Station Hospital.

She wrote of meeting "Bud" Piper and how grand it was to see him. "Margie" has written about visiting the native villages and the many interesting sights she has seen, also how very friendly the natives are. She has sent home many lovely things; such as, grass skirts, grass mats, jewelry, tapa cloth and ivory.

SPECIAL BULLETINS

Sept. 23- Cablegram just received from Marjorie that she will arrive in San Francisco on September 29th.

Sept. 29- "Marj" arrives at Fort Devens.

Oct. 2- "Marj" arrives at her home in Ashby for a 21-day leave, after which she will go to the replacement center at Ashville, North Carolina.

X X X X X X X X X X X X X X

Yoohoo, Adolf. It looks as if before long almost any heroic Dutch boy could remove his thumb from the dyke and apply it to his nose.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU

Waino Pesola	Nov. 4
Harold LaRoche	Nov. 9
Addison Clark	Nov. 10
Garnet Bennett	Nov. 15
John Salo	Nov. 23
Albert Olson	Nov. 28
Blair Arsenault	Nov. 29
Albert Johnson	Nov. 29

Letters to the "Town Pump"

Writes Sgt. Leo Honkala----"I do want to thank all of you folks for the three issues of the paper I have received and I hope to receive many more. I sure do get a kick out of getting all the news about the other men and women in the service from good old Ashby. All the other home Town news hits the spot."

A letter from Mrs. Helen Hodgman San Francisco, wife of Lester Hodgman says----"Lester has received the "Town Pump." He was very pleased and the name brings back fond memories of the pump on the Common. Lester is fine. He has just passed his 20 years of service in the Navy and is now Chief Warrant Officer serving on the East coast at present."

Albert Olson writes:-" I have received the August edition of the "Town Pump" and it is about time I wrote to show how much it is appreciated and how much I hope it will keep coming. It sure is nice of the Town to send the paper to the boys in the service. As I read that Luther Hayes, "Ernie Holmes and other boys have received Purple Hearts, I can see that the little town of Ashby is in the war."

A western health expert says that if men walked more, they would live longer, a statement which ought to have an especial interest to our infantry overseas.

We have received an interesting letter from Chet Hopkins telling how he looks forward to the Town Pump with the keenest anticipation- He continues--

"I was interested in Richard Wilkinson's bit about sea miles go and admit that pretty good considering he's not even in the Navy. Daresay that he'll get more sea duty than most of Ashby's sailors. However I've got a little something for him to shoot at. As A "Pill can" sailor here's the way news reads: I'm shooting for the quarter million mark with 225,000 miles already slid by. I picked up my last 12 week period which read 30,00 miles. In one 30 day period from hour to hour 13,000 miles slid beneath these feet. That's a constant speed of 18 knots. For land lubbers benefits, all this may be converted to land miles by multiplying by 1-1/8."---

To the Editorial and Contributing Committee of the Ashby Town Pump:-

"It was with great pleasure that on my recent return to England from a shuttle run across the English Channel, that I received your edition of the Ashby Town Pump. It certainly was great to read all the news from the home town. I certainly appreciate this very much and certainly am looking forward to the next edition. Thank you. Yours truly," John Salo

Arnie Piper writes:- First of all I want to thank you for sending me that great paper, the "Town Pump." It's a great thing to know what ll the boys and girls are doing in the Service and to know where they are. I also have had the special honor of being chosen a member of an all star team of players picked from the verious fields here at Pensacole to fly to Corpus Christi Texas, and play a team of all-stars of the air station there.

Dear Eddie: I have received four issues of the "Ashby Town Pump" and I'll say they get more interesting every issue. It certainly does a fellow a lot of good to know that the people back home are doing their best to make our stay away from home a happy one.

I hope that the "Town Pump" will still continue to be published.

I'm an airplane mechanic on a B-24, cormonly known as the"Liberator." My job is to see that the plane is ready to fly at all times and is safe to fly. One little mistake might cost the lives of ten men.

I have met Blair Arsenault several times. In fact, he and I came back to the air base together last Sunday evening. He is the only one from home I have met in my travels. I wish to thank you and the rest of the staff for putting out such an enjoyable paper. It is the most interesting paper I've read for ages."--- Dick Piper

Anothe grand letter was received from Fred Taylor, Jr. in New Guinea. He writes "I play solo trumpet in the band and orchestra. We are the base musical unit playing for shows, officers club dances and theatre. I have been building ply wood cases for the instruments as the weather really ruins them here. We practice 4-1/2 hours every day so you can imagine how tough my lip is. We play many marches and overtures that I had played in the Ashby Band, which helped me a great deal to be able to play the pieces right off. I think the greatest thrill was playing for Bob Hope and Frances Langford. He had a great show and we had a lot of fun with him and Jerry Colona---."

Marston Page wrote from Florida an interesting letter to his Mother very recently. We quote from it:-

Sept. 18

"Guess the Navy is keeping me here as a welcoming committee.--- I was going to write you yesterd ay afternoon but a few of the boys dragged me into town with them to a show. I'm very glad they persuaded me to go, for I met Bill Enright. Didn't know him at first although he looked familiar. Wespent the rest of the day together and hope to get together next Sunday. He is down on a ship which is at Pier 2 now. Says he has been in since the last of August. Said he saw "Chet" Hopkins out in the South Pacific and they spent a day together.--- Guess he was glad tosee me. I sure was glad to see him. We had a talk about old times and the follows in the service. Being with someone from home certainly does help the old morale.

Sept. 20

The "Town Pump" seems to get better every issue. You can really learn a lot about the fellows through that paper. I noticed that Kenneth Miller wrote and said if anyone got out his way to look him up. That was certainly a good idea starting a paper like that. Everyone likes it. I look forward to it every month. I see they want anyone to write to the paper if they have news. Bill says I'm the second one he has met from home: Chet was the other."

I want to thank you all who are, giving their time for the "Town Pump." It's a grand paper and I find myself looking forward to it every month. I Havn't seen any Ashby boys over here in France yet but will be looking for them. It's very interesting here and the ancient buildings are really something. Seeing them makes me think of the "Tale of Two Cities."

Although I wasn't living in Ashby when I entered the service, I still think of it as my home. Someday maybe I'll be living there again. I hope so for it's a grand place."

--Rod Brooks

Ashby Faculty Reception

A group of 150 parents and friends attended the annual reception to the Lyman School faculty in First Parish Hall on Sept. 20. Mrs. Walter E. Woodruff, President of the Ashby P.T.A., which sponsored the event, welcomed the gathering. The reception line included Principal Waino I. Pernaa, School Supt. Charles M. Robinson, Mrs. Woodruff, Claude Munson, Mrs. Elsie Guyer, Miss Ann Tyer, Miss Dorothy Hughes, Miss Marie Bouley, Miss Elizabeth Hannant, Miss Irene Hopkinson and Mrs. Margaret McDowell of the faculty.

After the reception a short entertainment was sponsored by Miss Hughes, pianist, and Miss Hannant, soloist. Mr. Robinson gave a talk on child delinquency and urged closer cooperation by parents. Community singing was led by Miss Hannant. Dancing followed with music by Heiskanen's orchestra.

Refreshments were served by a committee under the chairmanship of Mrs.Tukianen. Decorations of cut flowers wer under the supervision of Mrs. Fred A. Foresman, chairman of the entertainment committee, had charge of the program.

Running down people is bad business whether you are a motorist or a gossip

This, to be sure, is the season for canning applesauce but we doubt that it will continue up to and including November 7.

SCHOOL NEWS

The total enrollment of Lyman School is 174, an increase of 22 over last year. Two changes in the faculty since the school opening in September have been made by Miss Ann Tyer and Miss Irene Hopkinson. Miss Tyer, who has taught in the high school and coached the girls basketball teams has accepted a position in the Lee High School, her home town. Miss Hopkinson, who taught the third and fourth grades last year has left to teach in Dracut. Mrs. Kathleen Tracey of Fitchburg, a graduate of Fitchburg Teachers College last June will replace Miss Hopkinson.

Changes in the schedule at the high school were made in September to allow the high school boys and girls to harvest the apple crop which was partially ruined during the hurricane. School sessions were terminated at 12:30 p.m. allowing the youngsters the entire afternoon to aid the hard-pressed apple growers and also to replenish their empty pocketbooks.

The Wachusett Basketball League has reorganized for the coming year. Princeton and Westminster were admitted as new teams making a total of ten, making possible a division intontwo groups, the west and east. The West division comprised of Ashby, Townsend, Lunenburg, Westminster, and Princeton. The East, Pepperell, Groton, Ayer, Westford, and Littleton. Both boys and girls teams will be sponsored. Champions of each division(girls and boys) will play best two out of three series on the home and homes basis and a third game if necessary, in a neutral court, for the league championship.

The magazine drive in the school went over the top again with a total of $534.25.

The classes are already choosing plays and characters for the one-act play to be held Nov. 17.

NEW ARRIVALS

August 6 a son to Mr. & Mrs. Walter Mayranen(Terttu Elizabeth Inki) Bennett Road. Mr. Mayranen is in the Navy, Fireman 2/c, located at Detroit.

September 10 - a son, Arthur Louis Sears, was born to Mr. & Mrs. Louis A. Sears, Jewell Hill Road.

September 14 - a daughter, Janice Ann, to Mr. & Mrs. John Dingee, West Main Street.

September 30- a son to Cpl. and Mrs. Roderick Brooks(Margaret Sugrue) at Cambridge Hospital.

DEATHS

Mrs. William O. Loveland,(Abbie Stickney Loveland), wife of William O. Loveland, died at her home in St.Petersburg, Florida September 7, 1944, where she has lived for the past twenty years. She was formerly a resident of Ashby, living here for thrity-five years. She was born in Townsend Oct. 15, 1858. She is survived by her husband, two daughters, Eva E. Eaton of West Townsend, Mrs. Edwin Lord of Ashby, three sons, Harry and Arthur, both of Ashby, and Irving Loveland of Lowell. Burial was in Townsend.

Mrs. Norman V. Tilton(Lena A. Proctor) wife of Norman Tilton of Ashby Rindge State Road, died at Burbank Hospital Sept. 15, 1944. Mrs. Tilton was born in Vermont August 12, 1879 and was married in Ashby forty-six years ago, during which time she resided in Ashby. She is survived by her husband, two sons, Will H . of Ashburnham, Harold F. of Natick and a daughter, Mary E. Tilton of Shirley. Burial was in the West Cemetery, Ashby.

The "Town Pump"

The "Town Pump" so I am told
  Was written for our soldiers bold,
So news from home they could hear
  News from all their friends so dear.

We each have been asked to do our part
  To give some news to warm each heart,
To tell our boys of what goes on at home
  And as much as we can about the boys who roam.

To you our boys, the "Town Pump" sends
  Love and best wishes from all your friends,
We ask of you boys to send us a line
  To let us know if in health you are fine.

To Raymond Wright a word I will say aloud
  I'm sure Richard Bennett and "Don" Curran would be proud
To be remembered and honored by a friend so true,
  Who is now in Africa fighting for the red,white and blue.

Richard Bennett was the first from Ashby to give his life,
  "Don" Curran Ashby's first killed in action, in our country's strife.
Still fighting are many of our brave boys
  May the "Town Pump" give them hours of joys.

May God bless the "Town Pump" as it speeds on its way
  Bringing happiness and news of home each day
To some Ashby boy who is homesick and blue ,
  But who always keeps fighting with a heart so true.

Written by Bernice Curran
In honor of Ashby's men in Service

The following is a continued list of past or present residents of Ashby serving in the Armed Forces of the United States of America.

John Nattila
Eino Oja
Albert Olson
Marston Page
Walter Parker
Earl Partridge
Waino Pesola
Wiljo Pesola
Merrick Pillsbury
Rolland Pillsbury
Leon Pineo,Jr.
Arnold Piper
Malcolm Piper
Richard Piper
Robert Piper
Everett Rackliffe
Richard Robbins
Ruth Robbins
John Salo
Rudolph Salo
Illmari Salo
Roland Simonds
Fred Taylor, Jr.
Waldemar Tiilikkala
Edwin Tiilikkala
Everett Treworgy,Jr.
Ralph Varney
Elroy Walker
Shirley Wass
Raymond Wilkinson
Richard Wilkinson
Raymond Wright
John Woodruff
Robert Varney
Edwin Walker
Melvin Partridge
Mark Thatcher
John Enright